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BROKEN LANCE

EMBATTLED FORMER CYCLIST IS DUMPED BY SPONSORS AND STEPS DOWN AS CHAIRMAN OF HIS ANTI-CANCER CHARITY, LIVESTRONG PAGE 26

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ARE YOU A BELIEBER?

Justin Bieber fans Baillie Hrechkosy, 13, left, Chelsea Stevens, 14, and Ty Shore, 12, stand in the rain outside the Fairmont Hotel in downtown Winnipeg, Wednesday afternoon, in hopes of catching a possible glimpse of the 18-year-old singing phenomenon. Bieber Fever is sweeping through the city leading up to Thursday night's sold-out concert at the MTS Centre. SHANE GIBSON/METRO

Child saved in pedophile bust

Operation Snapshot spanned five provinces, intercepting the sharing of child porn PAGE 9

Winnipeg's 'Dorothy' wins top-five spot

Collen Purlan's star still rising in CBC's Over the Rainbow competition PAGE 4

From runway to retail

Petal-pretty dresses among trends buyers predict will be spring fashion hits PAGE 20

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Mom gets Bieber Fever

New Kids on the Block. Family matriarch understands craze, remembers her crush on Jordan Knight

BERNICE PONTANILLA
bernice.pontanilla@metronews.ca

Kyla Elias, centre, with two of her children, Ethan and Katy, says her teenage crush on New Kids On The Block has helped her understand her kids' love of Justin Bieber. BERNICE PONTANILLA/METRO

A Winnipeg mom said she understands her kids' Bieber Fever, as a similar bug bit her back in the day, that one was called New Kids On The Block.

"My girlfriends and I, we'd videotape ourselves doing whole dance routines and at school we always did New Kids On The Block airbands for talent shows," said Kyla Elias, 33, who said her favourite New Kid was Jordan Knight.

"We're open to it, Justin Bieber's pretty harmless and our girls like him, so if they want to put up a poster, we have no problems with that."

Elias said her three youngest, daughters Taylor and Katy, both 14, and her four-year-old son Ethan, are Bieber fans, with Taylor being the No. 1 fan in the family.

Ethan said his favourite Bieber song is Baby, but does he want to be Bieber when he grows up?

"Play for the Jets," said Ethan. "Music all you have to do is sing."

It was through hockey that the Elias family met Bieber in 2009.

"Three years ago, before Justin Bieber was big, we were seated in box seats at the Manitoba Moose and he was sharing a box with us, so our girls — I didn't have a clue who he was at the time but our girls knew who he was, 'cause he just started with his first song, so we got a picture with him," said Kyla.

Katy said it was her brother whose keen eyes spotted Bieber.

At first they didn't believe it was him, added Kyla with a laugh, but then "all of these girls started running."

"We just said 'Hi' and took a picture with him," said Katy.

Unfortunately, the Elias family won't be attending Justin Bieber's concert on Thursday, but Bieber would probably understand, since they're missing his gig for Taylor's hockey game.

Quoted

"Justin Bieber's pretty harmless and our girls like him, so if they want to put up a poster, we have no problems with that."

Kyla Elias

These dancers got moves like Bieber

Four of Justin Bieber's backup dancers came to Winnipeg a day early to show dancing fans a taste of what they will see at Bieber's concert Thursday night.

Dancer Jonathon (Jonboogie) Rabon, 23, started the night off by telling the young hip hop dancers, "We love energy," and teaching them moves to a freestyle version of Canadian artist Drake's song The Motto.

"It's a pretty big deal for people to learn from them. They are well-known and all four of them have strong backgrounds," said Wayne Santos, founder of Creative Creations, a local dance community program which presented the workshop.

Quoted

"They travel with Bieber and the Believe tour to every city and wanted to pass on their (dance) knowledge."

Wayne Santos, founder of Creative Creations, on Justin Bieber's backup dancers and their workshop series

Rabon was previously a backup dancer on Britney Spears' Circus tour and the workshop featured Bieber's official choreographer and Believe Tour director Nick Demoura, 24. The other two dancers, Shaun Evaristo, 29, and Johnny (J Blaze) Erasme, 23, have had international success.

The four dancers taught four separate classes to 120 people at the RWB downtown. Participants had the option of signing up for their favourite dancer or learn all four routines.

"The reaction in Winnipeg has been crazy," Santos said. "It has been a long time since this high profile of choreographers have been in the city … people are pumped."

The workshop series has already taken place in Vancouver, Calgary and Edmonton and will continue in East Coast cities after the Believe tour returns to Canada in November.

One of Justin Bieber's backup dancers, Jonathon (Jonboogie) Rabon, teaches workshop participants choreography Wednesday night.
ALYSSA MCDONALD/FOR METRO

ALYSSA MCDONALD/FOR METRO

Rock of Ages. Get out your hairspray, it's on the way

Five-time Tony Award nominated party musical Rock of Ages is coming to Winnipeg.

The smash hit featuring a mix of 28 different '80s tunes is set to rock the Centennial Concert Hall Dec. 11-13.

Set in 1987, Rock of Ages is an arena-rock love story about a small town girl who falls for a big city rocker when the two meet in an LA rock club.

The story is told with the help of hit songs from bands including Journey, Night Ranger, Styx, Twisted Sister and Poison.

CONTRIBUTED

Tickets go on sale Oct. 27 at 10 a.m. at all Ticketmaster outlets, online at ticketmaster.ca or by calling 1-855-985-5000. METRO

Pot bust. Nearly 11 lbs of marijuana found in car

A routine traffic stop just east of Portage la Prairie has netted RCMP a large haul of pot, and landed two Winnipeg men in jail.

Central Plains RCMP pulled over a 2005 Chrysler 300 on Highway 1 for a Highway Traffic Act offence around 3 a.m. Tuesday.

Inside the car officers found roughly 10.5 lbs of marijuana worth around $37,000.

Phillip Perreault, 21, and Leslie Maracle, 28, both of Winnipeg have each been arrested and charged with possession of a controlled substance for the purpose of trafficking.

Both have been detained in custody. METRO

RCMP found $37,000 worth of pot in a Winnipeg man's car. HANDOUT

Winnipeg's Dorothy hopeful makes top-five

Secret weapon. Colleen Furlan's hometown support is making wizardly waves in Toronto

BERNICE PONTANILLA
bernice.pontanilla@metronews.ca

The competition to land the role of Dorothy is heating up, with five left battling for for one of two coveted spots in the final — and Winnipeg's Colleen Furlan is right there in the middle of it all.

"It feels absolutely incredible, getting to the top-10 was so great, but now I'm halfway there," said Furlan from Toronto, where the 19-year-old is competing in the CBC's Over the Rainbow search for Dorothy. "I honestly couldn't have done it without Winnipeg's support."

Furlan said between rehearsals and fittings, her days often run from 9 a.m. to 11:30 p.m. Even with that dedication, Furlan has received criticism from the judges.

"It's difficult when you get negative feedback, but you have to remember it's constructive," she said.

Furlan's mom, Gaelyn McGregor, said some of the comments have stung a bit, but she prefers to concentrate on the shows of support, such as the rally held last Friday at Furlan's old school, Balmoral Hall, and the 100-plus supporters who filled Café 22 for Monday's results show.

"I think that's our secret weapon, it's Winnipeg," said McGregor, adding she's received comments in Toronto in admiration of how Winnipeg has supported Furlan. "It brings tears to my eyes… It's just been amazing."

Winnipeg's Colleen Furlan, right, has made the top-five in CBC's Over the Rainbow search for Dorothy. COURTESY OF CBC

McGregor said she's had a sneak peek at what Furlan will be performing this coming Sunday and "she's going to hit it through the ballpark."

Furlan hopes her hometown fans keep up the support and encourage family and friends in other parts of Canada to do the same.

MOTHER OF (ALMOST) SIX WOULD LOVE TO HAVE ADAM LEVINE VISIT HER HOBBY FARM

ABOVE-AVERAGE JOE
Kerri Salki

Meet Kyla! Her sense of humour, smile and patience will warm your heart. 'Self-employed as a mother of five and one on the way' is how she describes her life right now. Married to husband Troy for 18 years, they traded in city life for country living near Rosenort. Along with her kids, she raises chickens — yes, fresh eggs for breakfast. She loves gardening, baking and loves to knit. Family movie nights are also one of her favourite things. Her biggest accomplishment so far? The first family vacation ever this summer where all seven of them spent five days in a van. Now that IS amazing!

Name: Kyla Salfi
Born: November 1973
Occupation: Mom

Dream Job: My own little hobby farm. Maybe make my own cheese!

What word describes you?: Friendly.

Advice for a new mom: Relax, babies are pretty forgiving!

Last time you cried: Yesterday while watching a commercial. Thank you, pregnancy hormones!

Book you are reading: A grade one reader… haha.

Kyla Salfi CONTRIBUTED

What's your go-to meal?: Spaghetti and garlic bread.

Celebrity crush: Adam Levine.

What kind of car would you be?: A restored cherry-red Chevy pick-up from the '50s.

Favourite season: Summer.

Do you believe in ghosts?: Yes, but only the nice ones.

Favourite part of the day: When everyone goes to bed!

How many loads of laundry a week: 10 or more.

Just because they're not famous doesn't mean they're not a somebody. If you know an Above Average Joe that you think needs recognition, e-mail me at kerri.salki@102clearfm.rogers.com.

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Guilty plea in murder of the Croatian Giant

Rural Manitoba. Ivan Radocaj, a former pro wrestler, was found beaten to death in 2007

Ivan Radocaj, left, was murdered in 2007. METRO FILE

A Manitoba man has pleaded guilty to second-degree murder in the killing of a former pro wrestler who was known as the Croatian Giant.

Daniel Richard has admitted to his role in a murder-for-hire plot just days before his trial was to begin.

Ivan Radocaj was found beaten to death inside his rural Interlake home in 2007 only weeks after he married Melody Sanford.

Richard's male cousin, his aunt and Sanford were all convicted of first-degree murder at a lengthy trial last year.

A fifth man, Daniel Houle, also pleaded guilty.

Court heard Sanford arranged the killing, Richard and the two younger men carried out the beating and the aunt was involved in the conspiracy.

Richard is to be sentenced in November.

Radocaj, who was 43 when he died, had filed documents in August 2007 that claimed Sanford "tricked" him into a fraudulent wedding because she was after his money.

He claimed Sanford threatened to send street-gang members after him following their bitter breakup.

Sanford told police in a videotaped interview played at her trial that she had revenge on her mind when she planned Radocaj's death.

She claimed he had abused her daughter, but the daughter testified Radocaj never laid a hand on her.

CJOB/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Three-vehicle crash on Main Street

Debris litters the scene of a three-car collision at the corner of Main Street and McDermot Avenue on Tuesday. Police confirmed there were no injuries in the crash, but had no additional information other than that it occurred just before 10:30 p.m. A GMC Yukon appeared to be travelling eastbound on McDermot Avenue when it collided with a car on Main Street. It then also hit a second vehicle in the next lane and ended up on top of it.

BERNICE PONTANILLA/METRO

Crime proceeds

Assets seized now top $3 million

The Manitoba government says it has seized a total of $3.1 million in property, vehicles and other assets under a law aimed at cutting into crime proceeds.

Justice Minister Andrew Swan says more goods are being seized through court proceedings under the Criminal Property Forfeiture Act, which became law in 2004.

The law allows the province to take property from criminals, sell it, and use the money to fund police programs or support services for crime victims.

Swan has announced $60,000 in grants to agencies that counsel relatives of missing and murdered aboriginal women. He also announced $592,000 for the Winnipeg Police Service to purchase new equipment, including a sonar scanner for underwater search teams and a portable training lab at the police academy.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

XL scandal puts city 'in crisis mode'

Widespread beef recall. Brooks, Alta., in turmoil as workers are laid off again: 'There's desperation in their eyes,' says mayor

The mayor of the southern Alberta city of Brooks says the community is in turmoil as it prepares for the human cost of troubles at the XL Foods beef plant.

Workers at the plant, which is at the centre of an extensive beef recall and E. coli scare, were laid off again Wednesday as food-safety officials prepared to review whether the meat packer can reopen.

"We're in crisis mode," said Mayor Martin Shields.

"There are so many of those people who have come to our country. They've made a life for themselves. There's lots of local people who work there, too."

Shields said it will become increasingly difficult for the 2,200 workers to pay for rent, mortgages and the necessities of life once they miss a paycheque.

"There's desperation in their eyes and they're looking to me to help resolve this thing and I can't resolve it."

The 2,200 XL workers were laid off last week. About 800 were recalled to work temporarily Tuesday to finish processing beef carcasses as part of a Canadian Food Inspection Agency assessment of the plant.

"The workers completed the job. They are now laid off again. We are waiting on the CFIA to decide when the plant can reopen," said Doug O'Halloran, president of the United Food and Commercial Workers union.

"I think the earliest we are looking at now is Friday or maybe Monday."

The recall of more than 1,800 products now involves 33 retail chains across Canada. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Taking a trip to court

Two lawsuits, including a class action, have been filed in British Columbia related to the XL Foods beef recall.

- **One.** Vancouver resident Erin Thornton has filed a statement of claim in B.C. Supreme Court proposing a class-action lawsuit for people who fell ill from E. coli and those who had to throw out recalled beef.
- **Two.** A lawsuit was filed on behalf of 15-year-old Cody Farmer from Nanaimo, B.C., who allegedly required surgery after he was exposed to E. coli.

For a young suspected crack addict, help is at hand

Is he ashamed or just trying to hide his identity? This young suspected crack user is escorted by a welfare worker to a van that will take him to a shelter near the Parque Uniao slum in Rio de Janeiro on Wednesday. Health officials are locating hundreds of crack addicts suddenly left without drugs after police occupied the city's dangerous slums this week. FELIPE DANA/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Baby blues. Childless couples seek docs' help

Almost one in seven Canadian couples trying to have a child seeks medical help to conceive, including using in-vitro fertilization, says a Statistics Canada report released Wednesday.

Age was a big factor: Data show couples in which the woman was aged 35 to 44 were two to three times more likely to seek help than were couples in which the woman was 25 to 29.

The survey also found childless couples were four to five times more likely to seek medical assistance than were those with at least one child.

More couples are delaying childbirth. Since 1984, the percentage of first-born children with mothers aged 35 or older has tripled to 11 per cent, the report says. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Some hangover! 50-day binge sparks alleged flap

A Ukrainian man, hung over from a 50-day drinking binge, sparked an uproar on a Delta Air Lines flight and had to be wrestled to the floor by passengers, it's alleged.

Anatoliy N. Baranovich, 46, woke up during the plane's descent to Salt Lake City, started yelling in Russian and tried to open the rear exit door, damaging the plane's fuselage, a criminal complaint says.

According to the document filed in court, Baranovich had been visiting family in the Ukraine for several weeks in an attempt to begin construction on a house.

Unsuccessful, he instead got drunk for the entire 50 days and "never sobered up."

A detention hearing has been scheduled for Friday. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Texas attorney general cheering for Bible verses

Church and gridiron.
State's top lawyer intervenes in lawsuit to allow cheerleaders to wave banners bearing Christian phrases at high school football games

Texas Attorney General Greg Abbott said Wednesday he will defend high school cheerleaders who want to use Bible verses on banners at football games.

Abbott has filed court papers to intervene in a lawsuit that cheerleaders at Kountze High School filed against the school district, complaining that a new policy violated their freedom of speech.

In September, district officials told the cheerleaders to stop using Bible verses at football games after the Freedom From Religion Foundation complained.

The atheist group argued that using banners with phrases such as, "I can do all things through Christ that strengthens me," violates the First Amendment prohibition on the government establishing a religion.

After the school told the cheerleaders they could no longer use Bible verses, they filed suit in Hardin County district court. State District Judge Steve Thomas put a hold on the new school policy while he considered the arguments, and the cheerleaders continued to make the banners. He is expected to rule Thursday.

"This is student-led expression, and that's perfectly constitutional," Abbott said. "We will not allow atheist groups from outside the state of Texas to come into the state to use menacing and misleading and intimidating tactics to try to bully schools to bow down to the altar of secular beliefs.

"If the majority of the cheerleaders were atheists, would a court support their 'right' to hold up a banner insulting Christianity or all believers?" the group said in court papers.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Governor's on board

Joining Abbott at a press conference Wednesday, Gov. Rick Perry said he supported the cheerleaders and denounced the Freedom From Religion Foundation.

- "Anyone who is expressing their faith should be celebrated, from my perspective, in this day and age of instant gratification, this me-first culture that we see all too often," Perry said.

Greek soccer clubs attract colourful sponsors

Players on Voukefalas, a small amateur soccer club, warm up before a local championship match in the city of Larissa, central Greece, on Oct. 7. Players are wearing bright pink practice jerseys emblazoned with the logos of the Villa Erotica and Soula's House of History, a pair of bordellos recruited to sponsor the team after drastic government spending cuts left the country's sports organizations facing ruin. One team took on a deal with a local funeral home and others have wooed kebab shops, a jam factory and producers of feta cheese.

NIKOLAS GIAKOUMIDIS/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Man charged over dinosaur fossils

A Florida man was charged Wednesday with smuggling dinosaur fossils into the United States, including a nearly complete Tyrannosaurus Bataar skeleton from Mongolia, federal prosecutors said.

Eric Prokopi, a self-described "commercial paleontologist" who buys and sells whole and partial dinosaur skeletons, was arrested at his home in Gainesville, according to a complaint unsealed by prosecutors.

He was charged with smuggling goods into the U.S. and interstate sale and receipt of stolen goods.

He also faces one count of conspiracy to smuggle illegal goods, possess stolen property and make false statements.

If convicted on all of the charges, he could face up to 35 years in prison.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

CANADIANS ARE POLITICALLY SHY

RACHEL DÉCOSTE
For Metro
www.rachelD.ca

I'm a Canadian citizen, and have volunteered for the Liberals in Ontario and Quebec. But right now I'm in Michigan, as a volunteer working on U.S. President Barack Obama's re-election campaign.

One of the big differences between Canada and the U.S. is that Americans are not coy about which party they support. Canadians often feign being undecided when canvassers asks about their voting intentions; Americans will tell you point-blank, for example, that they are "not supporting a Muslim candidate who makes an assault on their religious rights." In fact, Canadians are so politically shy that it affects the pollsters, who actually have trouble predicting Canadian electoral results.

In Michigan, the people show their political colours quite vividly. So much so that in Detroit the Obama campaign long ago ran out of lawn signs. And in Toledo, Ohio, you can't get a lawn sign unless you actually donate your time to the campaign.

It's lucky that Americans are so engaged, because their voter registration process is time-consuming. The paperwork poses an obstacle to many would-be voters with low incomes. Thankfully, we Canadians haven't adopted this backwards bureaucratic burden that hinders participation in democracy.

Differences

"One of the big differences between Canada and the U.S. is that Americans are not coy about which party they support."

But most of all, as I work in the middle of American politics and I approach Nov. 6, I find myself appreciating more and more our Canadian conception of health care, education and the social safety net at large. It differentiates us from our neighbours to the south. Thank goodness I am Canadian.

'Binders full of women' fails to pass truth test

Romney didn't ask for list. Names compiled by coalition of women's groups would have been handed to whoever won Mass. election in 2002

U.S. Republican presidential candidate and former Massachusetts Gov. Mitt Romney kisses a baby during a campaign stop at Tidewater Community College in Chesapeake, Va., Wednesday. CHARLES DHARAPAK/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Will "binders full of women" become legendary in American political folklore?

Democrats had their hopes up Wednesday following Mitt Romney's ham-fisted attempt to paint himself as an equal-opportunity employer during his second presidential debate against Barack Obama.

His poor choice of words set off a giddy eruption of social media mockery, lighting up Twitter and spawning a website, a Facebook page and even a song.

Democrats are hoping Romney's maladroit comment might damage his reputation among women, in particular. Female voters outnumber men in the U.S. and are playing a pivotal role in this year's campaign, with women's issues the focus of part of the debate on Tuesday.

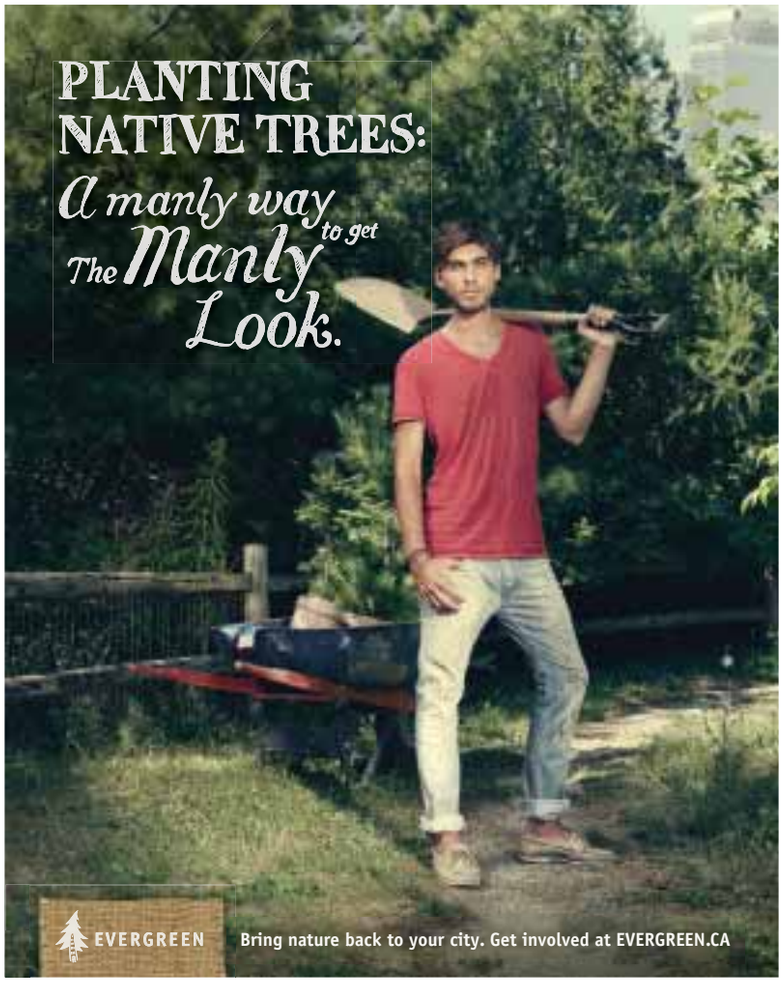
Paul Ryan, Romney's No. 2, tried to tamp down some of the ridicule on CBS News on Wednesday morning by lauding his running mate's commitment to women.

"He has an exceptional record of hiring women in very prominent positions."

Not true, apparently. By the end of Romney's term in Massachusetts, the number of women in high-ranking positions was slightly lower than it was before he took office. The women he did hire were mostly in junior cabinet positions.

There were also no female partners at Bain Capital when Romney headed the company in the 1980s and 1990s.

THE CANADIAN PRESS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Kiddie porn task force rescues child

Operation Snapshot. Police have already uncovered 'hundreds of thousands' of pornographic images

ROB BROWN
Metro in Regina

Det. Sgt. Darren Parisien of Operation Snapshot, an anti-child porn police initiative. ROB BROWN/METRO IN REGINA

An interprovincial investigation team targeting online pedophiles rescued a Saskatoon child while working on 30 child-pornography cases.

Representatives from most of the 14 Canadian police operations that make up Operation Snapshot revealed details of their ongoing investigation on Wednesday at RCMP Saskatchewan division headquarters in Regina.

The operation spanned Alberta, Saskatchewan, Manitoba, Nunavut and the Northwest Territories.

"There were hundreds of thousands of images," said Det. Sgt. Darren Parisien, lead investigator with the Saskatoon police. He said most of the investigations involved some form of undercover work.

"They involved us going to places where people are sharing and creating child pornography," said Parisien.

"We are undercover posing as children and posing as offenders. We go where kids go. That's where predators go."

Charges stemming from the investigations include sexual assault, indecent exposure, invitation to sexual touching, Internet luring, making child pornography, as well as accessing, possessing and distributing child pornography.

Parisien said one offender caught with a 14-year-old child in Saskatoon has already pleaded guilty to charges and is currently serving a 30-month sentence.

RCMP Insp. Pierre Leduc of the Canadian Centre for Missing and Exploited Children, said the operation's primary focus was to help children. "This sends a message to those at large today," said Leduc.

Parisien said that many of the images were of children under 12 and that he's seeing a much more horrifying trend in the photos.

"We're seeing infants and toddlers — children who can't speak yet," said Parisien. "Disturbing."

Parisien said while the images come from every corner of the world, it is mostly "homegrown" child pornography from North America.

Operation numbers

- **Police agencies involved:** 14
- **New investigations:** 30
- **Arrests to date:** 19
- **Devices seized:** More than 100 computers, 1,000 discs, 100,000s of images
- **Investigations:** Alberta — 9 Saskatchewan — 13 Manitoba — 7

U.S. Violent-crime rate up 18% over last year

The number of violent crimes unexpectedly rose by 18 per cent in the U.S. last year, the government said Wednesday, the first time that total has risen in nearly 20 years. Property crimes went up by 11 per cent, their first increase in a decade.

Academic experts cautioned that the new figures do not necessarily signal an end to the long era of declining crime.

The increase in violent crime was the result of an upward swing in assaults, which rose 22 per cent, from four million in 2010 to five million last year. The incidence of rape, sexual assault and robbery remained largely unchanged, as did serious violent crime involving weapons or injury.

The U.S. Bureau of Justice Statistics said the percentage increases last year were so large primarily because the 2011 crime totals were compared to historically low levels of crime in 2010. Violent crime has fallen by 65 per cent since 1993, from 16.8 million to 5.8 million last year.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Perspective

"2011 may be worse than 2010, but it was also the second best in recent history."

James Alan Fox, Northeastern University criminology professor

An increase in violent crime was the result of an upward swing in assaults, which rose 22 per cent, from four million in 2010 to five million last year.
THE CANADIAN PRESS FILE

Mexico

DNA of drug lord's parents sought

Mexico's top anti-drug prosecutor says authorities are seeking permits to exhume the remains of the parents of deceased drug lord Heriberto Lazcano, to obtain material for DNA testing.

Testing is aimed at confirming that a body stolen from a funeral home on Oct. 8 was indeed Lazcano's. The navy says his body was identified through fingerprints after a shootout on Oct. 7. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Cyber-security

No specific threats named

The federal government is concerned about its own cyber-security, but the public safety minister refused to say Wednesday where the potential threats are coming from. While the U.S. and other countries have publicly called out Chinese-owned firms as being among the dangers, Vic Toews said he sees no reason to name names — at least right now.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Painting a picture of the perfect heist

Museum faces criticism.
Millions of dollars worth of rare paintings stolen from art gallery

Patrons admire paintings at the Kunsthal museum. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

In Hollywood movies, heists usually feature criminals whose meticulous planning is used to avoid detection. But thieves who snatched seven paintings by Picasso, Matisse and Monet worth millions from a gallery in Rotterdam appear to have taken a less glamorous approach, relying mostly on speed and brute force.

Police said Wednesday they had no suspects in the case, the largest art heist in the country for more than a decade.

Museum director Emily Ansenk rejected criticism of the museum's safeguards. Speaking at a news conference Tuesday evening, she defended Kunsthal's security as "state of the art" and noted that insurance companies had agreed to insure the exhibition.

And yet the thieves got away. The paintings they took are estimated to be worth roughly $100 million if sold at auction.

The theft raises questions about whether security at the Kunsthal museum, which was designed by renowned Dutch architect Rem Koolhaas, was sufficient to protect paintings worth millions of dollars each. Experts said features of the building's design and location itself may have been what initially attracted criminals.

"Speaking as a museum-goer, it's fantastic," museum security expert Ton Cremers said. "Speaking as a security expert, it's a total nightmare."

The gallery is located aside a large road that leads to a roundabout, less than a mile away, linking to highways heading in three directions. The display space where the paintings once hung is a large square area, at ground level, visible from outside through glass walls.

The break-in occurred at around 3 a.m. Tuesday, police say, after someone triggered an alarm. The paintings had been grabbed violently from the walls, leaving only white spaces and hanging wires dangling behind. Police spokesman Henk van der Velde said Wednesday the investigation is proceeding and there are no suspects.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Paul Gauguin

Girl in Front of Open Window

Pablo Picasso

Harlequin Head

Meyer de Haan

Self-Portrait

Tension on the pitch

Prime minister looks for justice

Serbia's prime minister has ordered a police probe into the scuffle and allegations of racist abuse during a Serbia-England under-21 football match, but said it was too soon to say whether the claims or racism were true.

Ivica Dacic said Wednesday that all those who took part in the scuffles that broke out on the pitch between the players and officials from both teams after Tuesday's match must be identified and brought to justice.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Unarmed

Toews won't jump the gun

Public Safety Minister Vic Toews says he's not interested in speeding up the arming of border guards, despite the shooting Tuesday that sent a guard at a B.C. crossing to hospital with a gunshot wound.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Tied up

17-year-old escapes captivity

Police say a 17-year-old girl who was kidnapped after she left a club in northern Germany and allegedly raped while in captivity has escaped.

Officials said Wednesday they have arrested a 28-year-old suspect with a previous rape conviction. He is alleged to have kidnapped her at knifepoint in Rostock on Friday night and taken her to his apartment, where he beat her up and tied her up.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Facing charges

Standoff ends 27 hours later

An Ontario man involved in a 27-hour long standoff with police is set to appear in court today on charges related to an alleged armed kidnapping

The standoff began early Tuesday morning when officers in Whitby, Ont., surrounded an auto shop where police say a man with a handgun had barricaded himself. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Evacuated. U.S. Embassy in Stockholm receives unknown powder in mail

The U.S. Embassy in Stockholm was evacuated Wednesday after receiving a letter containing an unknown substance, police said.

Bomb-disposal experts were sent to the embassy to remove the letter and analyze its contents. Streets around the embassy were closed but reopened after police had removed the letter.

Police declined to give details on the content, but spokesman Daniel Granstrom told Swedish tabloid Expressen it contained some kind of "powder." Asked if the substance was dangerous, he said "it may have been dangerous, but it's not dangerous now."

An embassy spokesman said the embassy was evacuated and that officials were investigating "a possible security incident."

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Swedish police and emergency workers arrive at the U.S. Embassy in Stockholm on Wednesday to investigate a suspicious package.

CLAUDIO BRESCIANI/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Kremlin probe of leftist chief a sign of crackdown

Russian propaganda?
Political activist, who has led several anti-Putin protests, denies charges stemming from Kremlin-friendly documentary

In a new sign of a widening Kremlin crackdown on the opposition, investigators on Wednesday opened a criminal probe against leftist leader Sergei Udaltsov and several other activists for allegedly planning mass riots.

Russia's top investigative agency said it also will investigate claims made in a recent documentary aired by a Kremlin-friendly TV channel that opposition leaders worked with Georgian officials to prepare terrorist attacks across Russia.

Udaltsov, 35, a leather-clad, shaven-headed leader of the Left Front opposition movement, has denied the charges stemming from the documentary, which he said was a sham.

The agency did not say whether Udaltsov and others had actually carried out any of their alleged plans.

The criminal case comes as the opposition is bracing for an online election of its co-ordination council this weekend. Udaltsov is running.

Udaltsov, who wore a Stalin T-shirt for his wedding, has led anti-Putin protests for several years, focusing on unsanctioned marches and rallies.

A great-grandson of a Bolshevik revolutionary, he has been arrested more than 100 times during his political career and spent months in prison. He has launched many hunger strikes while in custody.

The documentary aired last week on NTV, a channel seen as a propaganda arm of the Kremlin, showed what it says was footage of the Left Front leader meeting with officials from neighbouring Georgia to discuss raising funds for protests against President Vladimir Putin, and plans for organizing mass riots.

Investigators, backed by armed men wearing ski masks, searched Udaltsov's apartment in south Moscow for more than five hours on Wednesday. The home of his parents was also searched, said Violetta Volkova, Udaltsov's lawyer.

"I'm going to hold on until the end, and I won't be quiet," Udaltsov said as he left his home for questioning escorted by masked armed police. "It's a wave of new repression."

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Russian opposition leader Sergei Udaltsov is escorted by police officers for questioning in Moscow, Wednesday. In a new sign of a widening crackdown on Russia's opposition, investigators opened a criminal probe against the leftist leader and several other activists for allegedly plotting mass riots.

MIKHAIL METZEL/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

A funny thing happens when you tell kids they matter. They believe you.

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Wine industry. Wonky weather devastates Europe's grape harvest

Drought, frost and hail have combined to ravage Europe's wine-grape harvest, which in key regions this year will be the smallest in half a century, vintners say.

Thierry Coste, an expert with the European Union farmers' union, said Wednesday that France's grape harvest is expected to slump by almost 20 per cent compared with last year. Italy's grape crop showed a seven per cent drop — on top of a decline in 2011.

"Two big producing nations, France and Italy, have not known a harvest so weak in 40 to 50 years," Coste said. "All the major producing nations have been hurt."

France's Champagne and Burgundy regions were hard hit by weather conditions that particularly affected the prevalent Chardonnay grape, used to make the world's most famous sparkling wine and the luxurious whites from those regions.

In places where vintners were already facing a small margin of profit, many could be facing survival problems, said Coste of the Copa-Cogeca union.

"In certain regions, there will be many vintners in big difficulties because of the collapse of the harvest," he said.

Drought hit the Mediterranean rim hard this year, Coste said. "First and foremost, climate change or not, we see that we have ever more dry spells," he said. Making matters worse is that even winter was dry this time. It was almost zero (degrees Celsius) in the south."

In the northern wine regions, it was the inverse, with cold and wet weather wreaking havoc. Hail in particular hurt the crops.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Global impact

- The European wine harvest automatically has a global impact since it accounts for some 62 per cent of the worldwide wine production.
- About 2.5 million families live off the wine sector in Europe, making the dependency on the vagaries of weather a sometimes cruel business.

P.E.I. entrepreneurs remember slain men

The Stay Golden Apparel business team, from left, Alex Khan, Devin MacGregor and Coltin Handrahan, designed and sold custom T-shirts this summer to raise funds for a memorial scholarship in honour of Tanner Craswell and Mitch MacLean that will be awarded at Colonel Gray High School in Charlottetown. MacLean, from Cornwall, Ont., and Craswell, from Charlottetown, were shot and killed in December 2011 on the side of a road near Claresholm, Alta. The two had moved to Alberta to play baseball. CONTRIBUTED/THE CANADIAN PRESS

New study

Quebec firms' tax burden heaviest in Canada, U.S.

A University of Montreal business school study says Quebec companies are by far the most heavily taxed in Canada and the U.S., even after accounting for generous financial assistance from government.

The HEC Centre for Productivity and Prosperity says Quebec companies pay 26 per cent more in taxes than the Canadian average and face almost double the tax burden of U.S. companies. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Market Minute

DOLLAR 102.25¢ (+0.91¢)

TSX 12,461.24 (+53.55)

OIL $92.12 US (+$0.03)

GOLD $1,753 US (+$6.70)

Natural gas: $3.47 US (+3.3¢)
Dow Jones: 13,557 (+5.22)

Lytro's 'living pictures' can be refocused

Digital photography. New camera is popular with tech and photo enthusiasts, but will it click with mass market?

Its makers say it represents "the first major shift in photography since the invention of photography." But a skeptic might say it just sounds a little gimmicky.

It's called Lytro, a boxy digital camera that takes so-called "living pictures." Basically, photos can be refocused at any time after they're taken, so something in the foreground can be made sharp with the background blurred, or vice versa. Interactive Lytro photos can be shared online for friends and family to interact with.

The effect is possible because the Lytro is a light-field camera, explains director of photography Eric Cheng. "The light field is defined as all of the light travelling in every direction at every point in space — and the key component there is direction," Cheng says.

"Light field is what travels through a traditional camera but (the camera) throws away most of the information; you have a bunch of different light rays hitting one point and they all get averaged into a colour. But if it were possible to separate those light rays out, the data you'd be capturing would be this rich light-field data they've been talking about in computer-graphics theory for decades."

Many tech and photography enthusiasts rushed out to buy one, but now the firm is trying to go after the mass market. Cheng that concedes the Lytro will be pushed as a second camera for consumers, not a replacement for low-end point-and-shoots or full-featured digital SLRs.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

The Lytro is a digital light-field camera that takes so-called "living pictures" that can be refocused after shooting. LYTRO

By the numbers

$400

The Lytro first went on sale in the U.S. about a year ago and was released in Canada last week, with an 8G version selling for about $400 and a 16G model going for $500.

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FIGHT FOR WHAT'S RIGHT — EVEN IF IT'S TRIANGULAR

HE SAYS...
John Mazerolle
metronews.ca

All this presidential debate talk has me thinking of the one time I took part in an organized debate, which dealt with the age-old question that has haunted humanity since it first crawled out of the muck: "Circles or triangles?"

That was the actual topic at a debate tournament at a private high school several years ago. I was a "celebrity" judge, because Justin Bieber was not available.

Going in circles

While youth are often accused of being apathetic about the important issues facing our world, that debate included a group of students who were concerned — nay, tormented —about the nation's shape-related issues.

While youth are often accused of being apathetic about the important issues facing our world, that debate included a group of students who were concerned — nay, tormented — about the nation's shape-related issues.

It was inspiring.

Even debates as goofy as that one are heartening to me. Say what you will about U.S. debates and how they contain fewer actual facts than the back of a cereal box. It's still two or more people going toe-to-toe in a real back-and-forth with passion and knowledge and (some pieces sold separately) ideas.

We could use more of that.

Instead, we're taught that there are a bunch of places where it's not polite to argue (family picnics, Facebook feeds, funeral homes). And if you're in a bar or some other acceptable debate location, most arguments degenerate quickly into volume competitions. There's a guy in my local pub that can be counted on to bellow — scream, really — "THE LIBERALS ARE THE NATURAL GOVERNING PARTY OF THIS COUNTRY!!!" at least once a week.

Though, in fairness, sometimes there's no one else there. He was talking to empty chairs before Clint Eastwood made it cool.

With this sad state of affairs, everybody should learn the finer skills of debating.

Whether you one day dream of being a world leader, or if you just want to goof around in a meaningless Liberal leadership race, here are some tips to drive your points home.

- Presentation matters. In 1960, radio listeners thought Richard Nixon won his debate with John F. Kennedy. But in a historical twist not often mentioned, people watching on TV thought Kennedy won, because they could see that Nixon kept kicking his dog, Checkers.
- Respect your opponent, not their ideas. This is obvious in the political arena, but often forgotten in day-to-day life. Lots of people say, "You don't have to agree with me, but you have to respect my opinion," even if they were talking about how their magnetic bracelet reinvigorated their energy force field, or how much they miss Charlie Sheen in Two and a Half Men. Remember what Voltaire said: "I disapprove of what you say, but I will defend — wait, you like Two and a Half Men. BWAHAHA." I'm paraphrasing.
- Get your zingers in. It shouldn't be all about zingers, but sometimes a little sauce makes the meal more memorable. Compare: "Mr. Speaker, our subcommittee's research has shown the opposition's numbers to be skewed at best," to "Mr. Speaker, up your nose with a rubber hose." Check and mate.

Now that you have these helpful tips, get out there and argue. Do it for yourself! Do it for your generation! And, most importantly, do it for the triangle!

Because what's right is right.

Artist gets under their skin

GETTY IMAGES

Hirst's avenging angel

Pregnant women exposed in statue

Damien Hirst, the world's richest artist, unveiled his new work in Ilfracombe, England, on Wednesday.

Verity, a 19.8-metre bronze statue of a pregnant woman with her insides exposed, represents "truth and justice," he said. There have been more than 100 complaints from locals, while critics have labelled it a "dictator fantasy." METRO

The artist explains

"I know it's not for everyone, but I really hope that over time it will become accepted by the community and will benefit the town."

Damien Hirst, 47, British artist
Hirst lives part-time in Ilfracombe, where he owns a seafood restaurant. It is hoped the statue will increase tourist numbers for the town.

Hirst hits

- **The Physical Impossibility of Death in the Mind of Someone Living (1991).** A tiger shark in a glass tank of formaldehyde, nominated for Turner Prize.
- **For the Love of God (2007).** Skull encrusted with more than 8,000 flawless diamonds, with a sale price of $100 million US.

Metropolitan Panel

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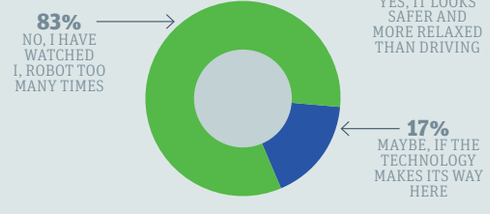
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0%
YES, IT LOOKS SAFER AND MORE RELAXED THAN DRIVING
17%
MAYBE, IF THE TECHNOLOGY MAKES ITS WAY HERE

Twitter

@ShadoeDavis: How the h— did I wind up in one of #romney 's binders?? #identitytheft #mistake #enoughalready

@NestaMAZING: It's a beautiful light rain out there. Makes for an amazing smelling fall walk. #Winnipeg

@BishopGfresh: Anyone in #Winnipeg want to donate a back massage to this guy? I feel like my neck is gonna snap off :(

@kellyoxford: Canadians watch US politics like Americans watch Honey Boo Boo.

@juanito69508: Now I'm reading on twitter that some people's wheels on their garbage containers have been falling off. #winnipeg

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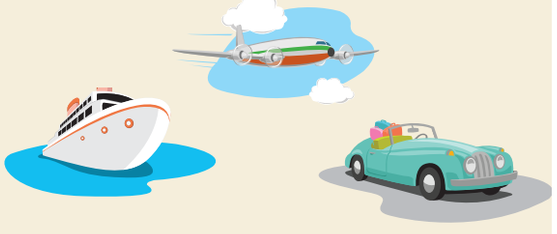

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Pemberton keeps it fresh on Hope in Dirt City

Park Theatre show.
Hip hop artist took unconventional songwriting and recording approach on new album

BACKSTAGE PASS
Jared Story
winnipeg@metronews.ca

Canadian hip hop artist Cadence Weapon brings his Hope in Dirt City tour to the Park Theatre on Friday. SUPPLIED

Hip hop artist Cadence Weapon — real name Roland Pemberton — pays tribute to his hometown on his latest album Hope in Dirt City.

"Dirt City is Edmonton, that's what me and my artist friends have always called it," says Pemberton, 26, who is currently based in Montreal.

"That's the jokey self-deprecating name we have for it, but as I worked on the album and shared these songs with more and more people, I started to realize that Dirt City is more of a state of mind.

It can be applied to anyone in any city coming from a hardscrabble kind of background, but persevering despite negative personal conditions."

Hope in Dirt City — which was short-listed for the 2012 Polaris Music Prize — is the product of a unique songwriting/recording process.

Pemberton started as he normally would, creating compositions by sampling or using a drum machine, but then replaced all the samples with live instrumentation.

"I took the songs to a band in Toronto," Pemberton says. "We basically jammed over a six-month period and we replaced all the samples with new full compositions based on my original demos. I then took the recordings from those sessions and sampled them again.

"I wanted to make something that was more organic sounding because my previous music was very electronic and I wanted to get away from that sound.

"Also, I wanted to see what it was like to record live instruments and deal with the unpredictability of live musicians."

Dirt City state of mind

"'Dirt City' ... can be applied to anyone in any city coming from a hardscrabble kind of background, but persevering despite negative personal conditions."

Roland Pemberton, aka Cadence Weapon

Speaking of trying new things, Conditioning, the album's lead single, sees Edmonton's former poet laureate singing, something the rapper hadn't really tried much of in the past.

"I didn't really think much of it at the time. I just felt like Conditioning is a blues song, so maybe I should sing at some point, so I did," Pemberton says.

"It's been really gratifying to take these songs on the road because I've been exploring my vocal range and thinking of different ways to do things. It's almost inevitable when you're a creative rapper to ask yourself, 'What's the next thing?' André 3000 and Cee Lo Green started singing, so I'll give it a try too."

Cadence Weapon plays the Park Theatre tomorrow. He will be joined onstage by Winnipeg's Tim Hoover, aka DJ Co-op.

Local hip hop act The Lytics opens the show. Tickets are $12 at the Park Theatre, Music Trader and ticketbreak.com. Showtime is midnight.

Scars of bullying.
One family's tragedy revisited.
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Cronin creates whole new fictional worlds

New book. The Twelve follows up on the hugely successful The Passage with new characters

DOROTHY ROBINSON
Metro World News

The way author Justin Cronin sees it, we have four main types of boogeymen.

"They come down to werewolves, monsters, zombies and vampires. They are the big four," says the engaging author from his home in Texas, where he is a distinguished faculty fellow at Rice University. "Of the four of them, the vampire story is the one with the best stuff."

So much stuff that Cronin was able to develop a highly regarded — not to mention highly profitable — trilogy based on the mythological beings.

The series began in 2010 with The Passage, a 784-page best-seller, and continues on this month with the publication of his massive follow-up, The Twelve.

In Cronin's futuristic dystopia, his vampires are known as virals: vicious, almost unstoppable monsters created by a government experiment gone horribly wrong who almost end all of humanity. In The Passage and now The Twelve, Cronin delves into two worlds: The time when the vampire plague was unleashed upon society and a hundred years into the future. His cast of characters numbers into the hundreds. Locations not only span coasts but decades and lifetimes. His word count is epic.

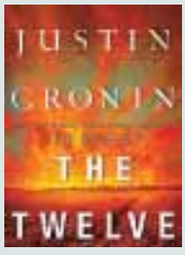
How does he keep it all straight?

"That was something I had to learn how to do," he says. "When I was writing the first book, I discovered my brain can naturally hold up to 800 pages of manuscript; at page 801, the top of my head flies off and I can't remember how to use the coffee maker. I had to grow a couple hat sizes to be able to do this."

Virals

The addition of the virals make the series into a horror thriller, but for Cronin the beasts are a way to get to the real meat of his tale: How does the human race survive when civilization ends?

- **Quote.** "I use the vampire story as a way to get to a post-apocalyptic story," Cronin says. "I really believed as a kid we'd all get incinerated; at that time it really looked like things would end."



Justin Cronin is releasing a new book called The Twelve. JULIE SOEFER

Lloyd Robertson opens up in The Kind of Life It's Been

New book. The former anchor of CTV's National News pens biography on the difficulties he has experienced

Throughout his six-decade career, Lloyd Robertson developed an unassailable reputation for delivering an authoritative account of the day's news.

His classic style in presenting "the kind of day it's been" became as distinctive as his rich baritone, and established the silver-haired anchor as the quintessential detached newsman.

Now retired from CTV National News and in a reflective mood with the release of his memoir, Robertson is delving into the little-known story behind his cool demeanour, a painful childhood that he says ingrained a steely ability to clamp down on emotion.

"For some reason I glommed on to radio as the place where I wanted to be," Robertson says of a troubled youth that sent him searching for escape.

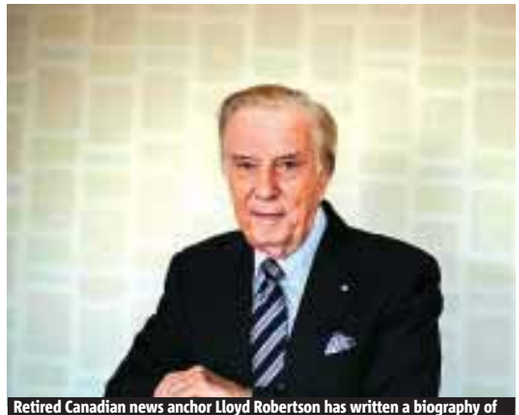
"It opened a whole world to me that I didn't even know existed and I could live in that world of imagination and ignore what was happening around me on a close personal level at home."

Home was Stratford, Ont., where Robertson was born Jan. 19, 1934. His father was a 60-year-old machinist's helper with the Canadian National Railway. George Robertson already had eight children from a previous marriage, another son nine years Lloyd's senior, and a pension so meagre that the cupboards were often left bare, Robertson says in his biography The Kind of Life It's Been.

Among the revelations: before putting his voice to use on the radio, Robertson was part of a barbershop quartet as a teen; both the Conservative and Liberal parties tried to woo him into federal politics; Jean Chretien's office asked if he'd consider a seat in the Senate; and while at the CBC, a bout of hallucinations sent him to hospital for nervous exhaustion.

"That really for me was a health scare because it said to me: You've got to keep control of yourself and keep control of your mind because your mother's genes are in there," Robertson says of the episode, in which he recalls "losing touch with reality" and "fighting for control of (his) own thoughts."

THE CANADIAN PRESS


Retired Canadian news anchor Lloyd Robertson has written a biography of his life. MICHELLE SIU/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Not retired

Robertson admits he hasn't slowed down much since turning CTV National News over to Lisa LaFlamme

- **Still working hard.** He continues hosting and correspondent duties for CTV's W5.

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Led Zeppelin discuss new concert film

Celebration Day. The iconic Led Zeppelin returned to the stage and now brings that experience to the big screen

DOROTHY ROBINSON
Metro World News

Robert Plant, left, Jimmy Page, Jason Bonham and John Paul Jones have released a new concert DVD. KEVIN MAZUR/GETTY IMAGES

Only 18,000 people were lucky enough to watch a somewhat reunited Led Zeppelin in 2007 at a tribute concert in honor of Ahmet Ertegun, the late founder of Atlantic Records who died in 2006. More than 20 million people applied for tickets to catch the one-off, two-hour show at London's O2 Arena, featuring Robert Plant, Jimmy Page and John Paul Jones, playing their first real concert since the mid-1980s (Jason Bonham, the son of Zeppelin's original drummer, John Bonham, was on drums).

Now the millions of fans who were left out can catch what happened in the new concert film Celebration Day, in theaters today and available on DVD on Nov. 19.

At a recent press concert to promote the film in New York City, the surviving Zep members were charming and funny, but they gave no indication that another reunion would take place any time soon. They did allow, however, that choosing Jason Bonham to join them onstage was a no-brainer.

"Once the idea was proposed — 'Would we do the concert?' — it had to be Jason," Page said.

For Bonham, who has played with the band twice before, the giddiness of joining them again at the O2 hasn't abated.

"I had lots of moments where I kept saying 'I'm playing drums for Led Zeppelin!' This really is something special and something I dreamed about all my life. I watched Song Remains the Same so many times that the look that Jimmy gave John in No Quarter, I remember, I looked over just like Song Remains the Same. He gave me the same look," says Bonham, before turning to Page. "It probably wasn't for the same reason you (looked at) Dad, but it was very, very special for me, honestly."

Page then joked, "That was the 'where are we?' look,"

Celebration Day includes the band's monster hits such as Stairway to Heaven, The Song Remains the Same and Dazed and Confused, as well as the unexpected, such as 1976's For Your Life, which the band had never played live prior to the London show.

Celebration Day is just a straight-up concert film, meaning no talking heads, no backstage glances, no trippy "quest" montages like in The Song Remains the Same. They appear shaky at first but then quickly get into their old rock 'n' roll habits. Per Page, they worked hard at "getting it right."

"We just really wanted to get it right and go out and play to people who maybe never heard us, who had heard about this reputation and what we were about, and basically stand up and be counted for what we were," he said.

Quote

"We just really wanted to get it right and go out and play to people who maybe never heard us."

Jimmy Page
Talking about getting Celebration Day to a place where they would be happy with it.

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Portrait of a widow as a remarkable woman

Ethel. RFK's daughter celebrates her widowed mother's poise and strength in new HBO documentary

In the thick of the presidential campaign, a documentary about a political wife wouldn't seem to offer respite from the clatter.

But that's exactly what Ethel, an intimate, affectionate look at Ethel Kennedy by her youngest child, manages to do. It's a heartfelt reminder of public service's rewards and heaviest demands, elements that can be lost in the moment's rough-and-tumble.

It also honours a rarely interviewed Kennedy wife who was eclipsed by her more glamorous sister-in-law and sister in tragedy, Jacqueline Bouvier Kennedy.

Debuting Thursday on HBO (9 p.m. EDT), Ethel offers the life and times of Robert F. Kennedy's widow through the lens of accomplished filmmaker Rory Kennedy, born six months after her father's 1968 assassination.

Her mother is a reluctant star but, with the help of siblings and a rich film and photo collection, Rory Kennedy creates a portrait of a feisty, devout and socially concerned woman who carried — and carries — on despite shattering loss.

Ethel weaves family memories with the major events of her husband's political life, including the Cuban missile crisis that confronted his brother, President John F. Kennedy, and RFK as U.S. attorney general.

It also creates a charming portrait of Ethel as a girl who would rather handicap the ponies than study her schoolbooks and who raised her children to be game competitors, never whiners.

But Ethel Kennedy's on-camera discomfort marks her as clearly out of step with the Facebook crowd. So why agree to the project?

"Because it was Rory who asked," replied Kennedy, 84, in an interview in which she kept her answers short, pointed and invariably self-effacing.

Asked to assess the film, she replied, "How remarkable she (Rory) is that she can pull something out of nothing. It's not like I've ever done anything. It's like I was just there."

Rory Kennedy quickly jumped in.

"It's consistent with how my mother speaks about herself. She has accomplished so much in her life and done extraordinary things," she said.

"But as you can see, she's not comfortable giving herself credit for it."

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

RFK's assassination

- **Still a struggle.** One area that remains off limits for Ethel Kennedy in the film is her husband's Los Angeles shooting. "Talk about something else," she replies to her daughter's question on the subject.

Robert F. Kennedy's widow Ethel Kennedy is portrayed as a feisty, socially concerned woman in a new HBO doc. HBO

Halle Berry

Halle Berry loves her 'Louie Lightfoot'

Halle Berry is opening up about how she first fell for fiancé Olivier Martinez. "When I first met Olivier, there wasn't the initial 'I'm in love!' It was something that grew more gradually — and it feels more real because of that," she tells In Style magazine. "He's silly, a clown, and very much the life of the party, which is good for someone like me. Danny Downer … been there, done that. Now I like Louie Lightfoot!"

Rupert Sanders

How Sanders got his groove back

Snow White and the Huntsman director Rupert Sanders — who made a name for himself by having an affair with star Kristen Stewart earlier this year — has reportedly booked his first directing gig since the scandal, according to Deadline. Sanders is set to take on the Juliet, based on a science-fiction short story by Alfred Bester. Sanders is also allegedly in talks to direct a Van Helsing reboot.

METRO DISH

OUR TAKE ON THE WORLD OF CELEBRITIES

The Word

Kate Gosselin gets no love from the coupon clippers

THE WORD
Dorothy Robinson
scene@metronews.ca

Kate Gosselin has had a hard time finding work since her TLC TV show Kate Plus 8 was cancelled. And now it looks like her one steady gig, being the world's most famous coupon blogger, has come to an end. Yes, earlier this week, Coupon Cabin's CEO Scott Kluth wrote a letter to his users telling them they let Gosselin go. "A series of recent events have made it clear to me that Kate Gosselin and her contributions do not align with the authenticity which we set out to build almost a decade ago, and that Ms. Gosselin is simply not a good fit with the wonderful team and culture at CouponCabin. It's with this that I am writing to inform you of our decision to discontinue Ms. Gosselin's feature blog on CouponCabin.com."

And did the claws ever come out in the literally hundreds of comments this post produced. Some of the finest: "I remember reading her blog and actually saying out loud, 'What does any of this information have to do with using coupons?'" Lynne M

"It is about time. There was not ONE GOOD COUPON tip she EVER contributed to this class site." Nancy Davis Kuziola

Lesson learned? Don't cross online couponers. They are a frisky, money-saving and very vocal bunch.

Home, separate homes for Twilight lovers

While Kristen Stewart and Robert Pattinson may have reunited, they may start off their reconciliation living apart. Stewart has reportedly purchased a $2.1 million house just a mile and a half from the Los Feliz home she shared with Pattinson prior to this summer's scandal over her infidelity, according to Hollyscoop. Stewart apparently bought the four-bedroom Spanish-style property in August, though, when the couple seemed to be on the outs, so maybe now that they're back together she won't be using it much.

Twitter

@andersoncooper
The hotel blanket that's there for decorative purposes creeps me out.

@msleamichele
Doing some major fall cleaning at my house right now! I love it! So excited to pull out the sweaters and boots! :)

@NiaVardalos
Dear sweet kind pretty woman who pointed out my laptop I'd left behind on a counter yesterday. Thank you.

@SteveMartinToGo
I'm actually quite funny today. It's my Twitter account that isn't.

Katy Perry

They're hot then they're cold: John and Katy on again?

On-again, off-again couple John Mayer and Katy Perry appear to be on again — or at least they did this week in New York, where Mayer celebrated his 35th birthday at a quiet dinner with friends and family, according to Us Weekly. Perry was by his side the entire night. "It was a very tame and civil," a source says. "They talked and laughed but nobody got crazy. Everyone looked like they were having fun. John seemed happy."

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Shopping the runway

From runway to retailer: While some trends only last the length of the catwalk, other creations will find their way to the shop floor. We chat to two buyers about what they think will be the biggest hits for spring / summer'13.

RICHARD PECKETT
richard.peckett@metro.lu

Simply monochrome

Always a favourite with fashion editors and for those of us who are after something timeless and recession-proof. In a sense, it's well-crafted simplicity, but that's not to say you're playing it safe with your look. Designers use the monochrome colour palette as a platform for a multitude of styles: long and loose at Celine, "deconstructed classicism" in designer Alber Elbaz's words at Lanvin (think tuxedos, kimono styles and square-shaped pieces), with ruffles and provocative slits and cuts at Balenciaga.

Glamour girls

"Sequins and intricate beading wove their way onto the most glamorous of dresses and gowns at Alexander McQueen and Valentino, while embellishments glittered in creations from the likes of Oscar de la Renta and Chanel," Head of Womenswear Emma David told Metro. Ornamentation always gets the red carpet flashbulbs popping and that's something the high street loves to recreate with glitzy evening wear looks.

Sixties redux

"There was a big sixties retro influence across this summer's trends — both for abstract, minimalist styles across collarless jackets, pencil skirts and dresses appear in matching stripes and checks," says ASOS's Buying Director Emma Fox. Where Tom Ford went for a style à la raunchy sex kitten with a nod to Barbarella, Gucci explored vibrant tunics and trousers, while Moschino's designer Rossella Jardini referenced style icon Audrey Hepburn (pictured) with cutesy dresses and shrunken proportions.

Sheer style

Play peek-a-boo come summer with the cheeky, diaphanous trend. ASOS's Emma Fox reckons it'll be a big trend for the online retailer after it arrived on an array of catwalks. Haider Ackermann (pictured) notably showed a billowing bespectacled polka-dot slip dress, chic and sheer at Topshop Unique and sexily sassy at Nina Ricci. It's a teasing, seductively sophisticated look without being out and out slutty. If past seasons are anything to go by, this revealing trend is likely to be one of the biggest sellers.

Flower power

If fashion had seasonal style commandments, florals would be one of the most sacred. It's a fashion institution and this season was no different, with pop art daisies at Prada to floral print forties tea dresses and "this season's wallpaper blooms mixed with clashing patterns at Christian Dior, Erdem (pictured) and 3.1 Phillip Lim, is sure to be embraced," Helen David, Harrods' womenswear general merchandise manager, told Metro.

Fashion is taking over Winnipeg.
Watch our model search finalists walk the Runway to Fame in the
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Venture into vibrant land of Burmese fare

"This simple way to use leftover rice is great for breakfast," writes Naomi Duguid. "Top it with a fried or poached egg or some cooked chickpeas. Or serve instead of plain rice to accompany a meal.

"After getting up in the dawn hours to photograph markets, I've often found find myself looking forward to some version of the rice, peas, and fried egg combo around eight thirty. At home in Toronto, I top the rice with fresh coriander leaves or tender greens and a fried egg, and drizzle on one of the condiment sauces to give it a kick."

1. Place a wok or a heavy, deep skillet over medium-high heat and add the oil, then add the turmeric and shallots and stir-fry until the shallots are tender and translucent, about 5 minutes.

2. Raise the heat to high and use wet hands to break up any clumps as you add the rice to the pan. Add the salt and peas, if using, and stir-fry, pressing the rice against the sides of the pan to sear it. Continue cooking until the rice is hot (the peas should be cooked by then), add the fried shallots, stir-fry briefly, and transfer to a serving bowl. Serve with lime wedges on the side if you wish.

Ingredients

- 2 to 3 tbsp peanut oil
- 1/4 tsp turmeric
- Generous 1/2 cup sliced shallots
- 4 to 5 cups chilled cooked jasmine rice
- 1 tsp salt
- 1 cup green peas (optional)
- 2 tbsp Fried Shallots
- Lime wedges (optional)

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Fried Rice with Shallots

This recipe serves three or four. RICHARD JUNG

Lemongrass Ginger Sliders

"The original Shan recipe is for meat balls made with ground beef or pork flavoured with minced lemongrass, ginger, and garlic," writes Naomi Duguid in Burma: Rivers of Flavor.

"I've found it easier in a North American kitchen to flatten the balls and cook them as sliders. They cook slowly in a little oil, which gives them a slight crust and succulent interior. You want some fat for tenderness, which is why the recommended cuts are flank steak or pork shoulder."

1. Place ground pork in a bowl, sprinkle with the turmeric, and set aside.

2. Sliders: Combine the lemongrass, garlic, shallots, ginger, and salt in a large mortar or the food processor and pound or pulse to a coarse paste. Add the rice, chile powder, and tomatoes and pound or pulse again.

3. Add flavour paste to meat and knead it thoroughly into the meat. Shape the mixture into balls about 1 inch in diameter, then flatten each one gently into a thick patty. Set aside on a lightly oiled plate.

4. Place a large skillet over high heat. Add the oil, then lower the heat to medium-high and add the sliders, being careful not to splash yourself with oil; arrange the first ones around the edges of the skillet and work your way in to the center. Cook for 3 minutes or so, then use a wide metal spatula to turn the sliders over. As the meat starts to release water, raise the heat a little to evaporate it. Remove the sliders from the pan when they are firm to the touch or have reached the degree of doneness you like.

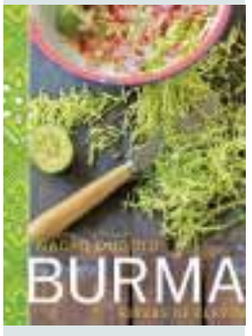
Ingredients

Sliders

- 1 lb ground pork
- 1/4 tsp turmeric
- 2 tbsp minced lemongrass
- 2 tbsp minced garlic
- 1/2 cup minced shallots
- 2 tbsp minced ginger
- 1 tsp salt
- 1/4 cup chilled cooked jasmine or other rice
- 1/2 tsp cayenne
- 1/4 cup finely chopped Roma tomatoes
- About 1/4 cup peanut oil

Cookbook of the Week

Introducing the flavours of Burma



Located at the crossroads between China, India and South Asia, Burma's cuisine combines Chinese noodle dishes, the curries of India and Thailand and salads.

Guiding you through the Burmese kitchen is award-winning author Naomi Duguid in her book Burma: Rivers of Flavor.

With simple recipes for food that manages to be elegant and earthy at the same time, plus stories of a place and a people that inspired Somerset Maugham and George Orwell, this is a culinary journey worth taking. The book also features photographs and travel tips.

Among specific recipes are Mandalay Noodles with Curry Chicken. Chile-Oil Fish and more. METRO

This recipe makes 16 to 18 sliders. RICHARD JUNG

Grey days with sunshine ahead

Decor report. The season's most welcomed colour combination is neutral grey and warm yellow

DESIGN CENTRE
Karl Lohnes
home@metronews.ca

It's not news that grey has become this year's most-loved neutral in home decor.

The cool tone has been teamed with all the fashionable colours including espresso brown, orange, pink and now yellow.

The combination of grey and yellow offer decorators the best of both world's: the cool relaxing tones of grey and the warmth of a cherry yellow.

This way, we can decorate with a sophisticated look without a room feeling too depressing, especially during the long winter months.

Tips for decorating with yellow and grey

- If painting your walls grey, choose a tone (that's the light and dark aspect of colour) lighter than the tone of your flooring. If painting with yellow, always choose a brown- or green-based yellow for a more neutral effect.
- Remember the 30/70 colour mix rule: Choose 30 per cent yellow items and 70 per cent grey for a room. Never have equal amounts of colour (50/50) in a room.
- Grey will hang around the decor scene for a long time, whereas yellow is a two-year trend.

Keep in mind yellow is psychologically the most irritant colour of all. It's the first colour our eye is attracted to and also the first colour our eyes tire of.

Use it judiciously as an accent when decorating your space.

Donegal Chair, $1,600

Just a touch of bright yellow helps brighten a mid century modern style chair. CrateAndBarrel.com.

D-Constructed Throw, $149

Warm up with this seasons most welcomed colour combination of graphite and celadon. CB2.com.

Majestic, $60/roll

Modernize traditional wallpaper with a cool and warm colour mix of gold and grey. GrahamBrown.ca.

Myro Plate, $16

Mixing warm and cool tones on the table. CrateAndBarrel.com.

Peeled Lace Pendant, $700

Artful hanging lights create a warm glow with amber and grey glass. Anthropologie.com.

Cleaning

Belts or suspenders —not both

**Hello Charles. An old-fashioned question: Suspenders (braces) with belt or without? What about the bloody belt-loops? And do I need to clean these?
Thanks, Glen**

CHARLES THE BUTLER
askcharlesthebutler@metronews.ca
For more, visit charlesmacpherson.com

Hello Glen, Suspenders are a wonderful invention and truly work!

However, pants are designed to be worn only with one of the two items, so you must pick to wear either your suspenders or belt but never both at the same time.

Don't worry about the belt-loops while wearing suspenders, as it really doesn't matter.

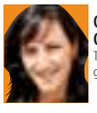
Washing suspenders only needs to be done if and when they are dirty with a stain.

In that case if they are dirty, they are cleaned based on the material.

You will be wanting to show off your fresh, clean suspenders. ISTOCK IMAGES

Canning is inherently green — now make sure it's also safe

**Can I buy BPA-free canning lids?
-Brenda of Halifax**



QUEEN OF GREEN
Tovah Paglaro
green@metronews.ca

The short answer is that, yes, BPA-free canning lids are available. And I'll tell you who makes them.

The long answer, however, is that although BPA-free canning lids are easy to find, they may not be the answer to your toxin-free food-preservation efforts.

A popular BPA-free option is the Tattler Reusable Canning Lid. It's made from polyoxymethylene copolymer (POM), which is a fancy way of saying that it's a BPA-free plastic. Yup, plastic! And it's not without its own cause for concern. This rigid compound has trioxane as a key compound — in other words, formaldehyde.

The jury is still out on the relative safety of ingesting trace amounts of formaldehyde.

Fans of the BPA-free lids point out that formaldehyde isn't released from polyoxymethylene until temperatures reach 250 C (482 F), well above the processing temperature for canning. Critics note that other factors — like acidity — can affect the release of formaldehyde from plastic.

So what's a concerned canner to do? First, let's be clear — my hat is off to all home canners. No matter how you look at it, putting up local food in re-usable glass jars to be eaten all season is inherently green. And choosing to eat from glass jars, instead of BPA-laden cans, can only be good for your health.

Now for the nitty-gritty best practices. I vote for buying traditional glass lids from thrift stores and markets whenever possible.

Barring that, consider using the boiling water bath (BWB) method instead of pressure canning. If adequate space is left in the jar, proper BWB canning doesn't require the food to touch the lid. Finally, you may want to try preserving some foods using other methods, like freezing and dehydration.

Happy canning!

The best practice would be buying glass lids from thrift stores and markets. ISTOCK IMAGES

Shannon and Dean Acheson's Ajax, Ont., dining room. The room includes the couple's hutch project: a hand-me-down hutch atop a dresser found on Kijiji that they refinished. The dining room table was made from old table legs and pallet/skid wood for the table top. THE CANDIAN PRESS/HANDOUT/AKA DESIGN

A red door entry table created by Shannon and Dean Acheson for the Fall Home Show Ultimate Upcycle Challenge. The couple transformed an old door using two stair spindles, two brackets and a few old crystal door knobs from the Habitat Toronto ReStore into an entryway table. THE CANDIAN PRESS/AKA DESIGN

One person's trash is another's treasure

Upcycling. Looking for ways to renovate with salvaged, and in some cases, free, materials?

With an eye for affordable finds and a shared passion for restoration, Shannon and Dean Acheson's home showcases several pieces they've refurbished with a touch of creativity — and plenty of elbow grease.

Shannon says one of their most memorable do-it-yourself projects involved a dining room hutch received free from a friend of Dean's, which her husband attached to a dresser they found on Kijiji.

They sanded and painted the pieces, then gave them a distressed look by sanding the edges and finishing with a glaze. Half-cup drawer pulls were added and painted along with the knobs that were on the original hutch.

"That was the first piece I think that we really went, 'Wow, we can do this, and really change how something is, and really make something out of what someone else might think of as nothing or impossible,'" recalls Shannon, who partners with Dean on the design blog AKA Design.

The Achesons were among the participants in the Ultimate Upcycle Challenge taking place during the Toronto Fall Home Show. For their contribution, the Achesons transformed an old wooden door into a richly red entryway table, which included incorporating stair spindles, two brackets, crystal doorknobs and furniture and antiquing waxes.

Fellow challenge participant Lisa Canning coated a pair of chrome chair frames with satin black spray paint for a modern edge. She further jazzed up the slim profile seats with a hand-painted chevron pattern in purple, teal and grey. In keeping with the upcycle theme, the Toronto-based interior stylist painted the print on a textured wallpaper remnant from a past client's project.

The mother of three and owner of Lisa Canning Interiors has also put upcycling into practice at home.

Canning's four-month-old son is using an Ikea crib first purchased for her three-year-old son which was spray-painted a soft grey. She says the change not only modernized the piece but also better weaves into the design colour scheme of the room the boys will share as the baby gets older.

For individuals seeking to refurbish a piece, Canning says the first thing to look at is structure and ensuring there's integrity in the frame.

"If you're talking about a hard furniture item, like a chair, for example, or a table, you want to make sure that it hasn't been too horribly exposed to the elements," says Canning, market editor for Dabble Magazine.

"I think with the naked eye many people could get a sense (of): 'Does it look like it's rotting at all? ... Does it feel sturdy?'" she adds. "Screws can be tightened, screws can be adjusted ... but I think testing the overall sturdiness of it is a really big first step."

Both DIYers agree individuals should turn a blind eye to design elements that can be easily altered.

"Look past the colour ... and look past whatever hardware happens to be on it, whether it's something that has knobs or handles. Look past that to the overall shape of it," says Acheson, author of the e-book Welcome Home.

"You can change the colour and you can change the hardware and make it look fabulous." THE CANADIAN PRESS

A portable fire pit will keep you warm on your patio even into the winter. ISTOCK IMAGES

Lower temperatures doesn't mean last call for your patio

DIY ideas. Add a few products to your deck to enjoy it even when the temperature dips

The weather may be cooler, but that doesn't mean you have to run inside.

These clever products will help you keep your patio or deck warm and cosy into the cooler months so you can enjoy your outdoor time even longer.

I Want That supplies more ideas like these as it takes a fast-paced tour through the latest and greatest building products and profiles all of the 'must-haves' for every home.

Warm Up

A portable fire pit can be the greatest thing to add to your outdoor space in the fall.

Make sure you find one that guarantees no rust, as well as a protective shield to ensure it keeps everyone safe.

On a smaller scale, fire bowls are a handy product to have. They usually have a mesh cover for safety, ensuring everyone stays safe and warm. You can also invest in a tall propane heater to stay on the patio right into the winter. These products can provide a 10 to 12 foot diameter of warmth, and most have a table that fits on the bottom for additional use.

Add Some Light

With cooler weather comes shorter days, so make sure you keep your outdoor space lit properly to enjoy the evenings.

Light-up flower pots are a fun way to provide a warm, ambient glow from planters that use low-watt LED lighting. These can be used in clever ways throughout your outdoor space to highlight various areas of your yard and home. Similarly, globe lights are a great way to add some personality and charm to your patio.

These frosted hanging lights can be used to dress up your space for a party, or just to add light on a chilly night.

Entertain

It may be cooler, but you can still entertain outside.

Consider outdoor speakers that will deliver crisp audio while being compatible with electronic devices so it's easy to transfer music.

You can always add more to amplify the sound further. A serving cart is a great way to treat guests on a patio, bringing them warm hot chocolate or mulled wine to ensure they stay cosy.

Get The Gadgets

Have fun with the outdoors this season! Look for a super blower — a handy product that combines a leaf blower, vacuum and mulching tool into one.

This will make clean-up of your outdoor space a breeze during this leafy season. A digital wall temperature clock is another great gadget.

This will automatically set the date and time — and update it during daylight savings. It tells you the temperature both inside and outside so you know when it's finally time to move indoors.

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Cycling

Armstrong through with Livestrong, Nike

Already an outcast in cycling after a massive doping report, Lance Armstrong absorbed hits much closer to home Wednesday: To his wallet and his heart.

Armstrong was dumped by Nike, Anheuser-Busch and other sponsors, and he gave up the top spot at Livestrong, his beloved cancer-fighting charity, a week after the U.S. Anti-Doping Agency released evidence of drug use by the seven-time Tour de France winner.

Armstrong stepped down as chairman of Livestrong in an attempt to minimize the damage caused by the USADA's report. USADA banned Armstrong from the sport for life and has ordered that his Tour titles be stripped, which could come before the end of the month. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

NBA

Lowry passes 1st pre-season test against Wizards

Landry Fields scored 15 points and Kyle Lowry had 14 points and six assists in his Raptors debut Wednesday as Toronto defeated the Washington Wizards 104-101 in pre-season play.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Raptors point guard Kyle Lowry makes a pass on Wednesday night in Toronto. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Bombers' Pierce not focused on payback

CFL. Returning QB insists redemption isn't on his mind going into Toronto for rematch with Issac

Buck Pierce is a go for the Winnipeg Blue Bombers, but the Toronto Argonauts can't say the same about Ricky Ray and Chad Kackert just yet.

Pierce received medical clearance to resume playing Wednesday and will start Friday night in Toronto. Although both practised Wednesday, Argos coach Scott MIlanovich said he will wait until Thursday before announcing if Ray (knee) or Kackert (ribs) will play.

Pierce, 30, will make just his sixth start of the season Friday. But it will be his first since suffering a mild concussion after taking a helmet-to-helmet hit from Toronto's Brandon Isaac in a 29-10 home loss to the Argos on Sept. 29.

Isaac was penalized on the play and later fined by the CFL. Winnipeg offensive linemen Steve Morley and Justin Sorensen were also fined for separate, retaliatory hits on Isaac.

Bombers cornerback Jovon Johnson later tweeted he had been fined $300 by the league for post-game comments about the incident.

Pierce said the Bombers are heading to Toronto to win a football game and not exact revenge.

"I'm playing Toronto, I'm not playing Brandon Isaac," Pierce said in Winnipeg. "We're moving on from that, that was three weeks ago.

"There is always trash talk, that's just part of the game. They're going to play hard, they're going to play tough, they're going to get after you and I like that. I expect that."

Both Milanovich and Bombers head coach Tim Burke believe there won't be any negative carryover from Isaac's controversial hit.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Quoted

"It's contact sport for a reason. Buck Pierce is known for having a soft melon. He's a great quarterback but if you can't take the hits, get out of the game."

Defensive tackle Adriano Belli, who was signed to the Argonauts practice roster on Wednesday. All signs point to the six-foot-five, 290-pound lineman playing this weekend.
TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Winnipeg quarterback Buck Pierce gets hit late and hard by Argonauts defender Brandon Isaac on Sept. 29 in Winnipeg. Pierce was cleared to play on Wednesday for the first time since the Isaac hit. JOHN WOODS/THE CANADIAN PRESS

NHL. CBA talks reach make-or-break stage

As the NHL's labour dispute went on display for public viewing, it underscored the importance of the next week in negotiations.

The league's latest collective bargaining offer to the NHL Players' Association — surprisingly released in full by the NHL on Wednesday — came with an attached warning about the consequences of failing to reach an agreement by Oct. 25.

In a document delivered to the union along with Tuesday's 10-point proposal, the NHL indicated it couldn't "responsibly" offer more than the 50-50 split of revenues and other items it was tabling. It also sought to add urgency to the talks.

"Delay (beyond Oct. 25) will necessarily leave us with an abbreviated season and will require the cancellation of signature NHL events," it read.

"Failure to reach a prompt agreement will also have other significant and detrimental impacts on our fans, the game, our clubs, our business and the communities in which we play."

Donald Fehr, the NHLPA's executive director, spent Wednesday examining the proposal along with union staff and was expected to deliver a counter-offer when the sides resume talks on Thursday.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

NHLPA executive director Donald Fehr in Toronto on Tuesday. THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Horoscopes

Aries
March 21 - April 20
Something apparently random will happen today but if you look a little closer and dig a little deeper, you will find there is a reason for it. Could it be someone is trying to disrupt your plans? Yes it could.

Taurus
April 21 - May 21
Try not to make too big a deal of your differences with neighbours and work colleagues. The more you focus on negative things, the more power you give them. Remember: Laughter is usually the best healer.

Gemini
May 22 - June 21
Promise yourself now that no matter what happens over the next 24 hours, you will not overreact. Take life as it comes and make the best of whatever situation you happen to find yourself in. No, the world isn't ending.

Cancer
June 22 - July 23
You are finding it hard to cope with changes that are not of your making. The good news is that someone you meet today will cheer you up and brighten your outlook considerably. Stop worrying about little things.

Leo
July 24 - Aug. 23
What at first looks like a setback will later reveal itself to be good fortune in disguise. Little things may go wrong in the short term, but over the longer haul they usually come right for you. Life's like that.

Virgo
Aug. 24 - Sept. 23
No one is perfect, least of all you. The mistake you are making is that you want to live up to standards that are too high to maintain for more than a few minutes, even for a Virgo. You're only human.

Libra
Sept. 24 - Oct. 23
Don't make too many plans over the next few days because you will most likely have to change them when the Sun leaves your sign on the 23rd. The best plan is no plan at all. Take each moment as it comes.

Scorpio
Oct. 24 - Nov. 22
You may feel a bit insecure but the good news is this phase will pass — and soon. In a matter of days, you will realize you had nothing to worry about. Life is good and getting better by the minute.

Sagittarius
Nov. 23 - Dec. 21
For some reason, you don't want others to know what you have been up to. Was it really that bad? Don't be too secretive though or you may arouse the curiosity of rivals as well as friends — and that's dangerous.

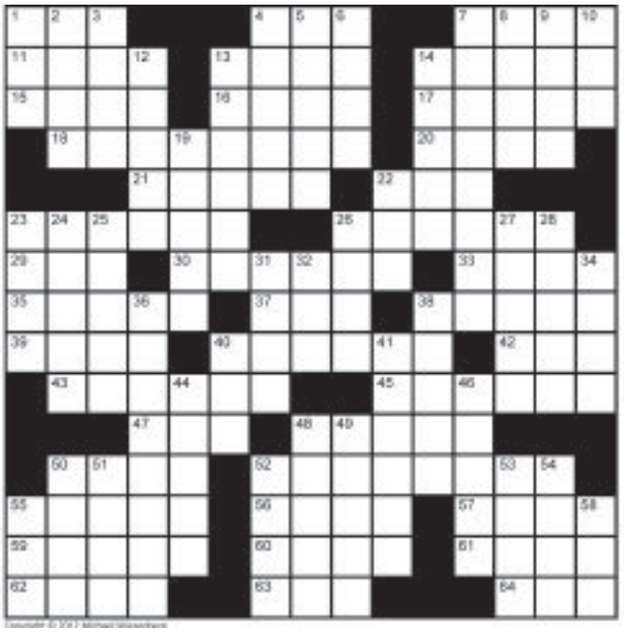
Capricorn
Dec. 22 - Jan. 20
You will come into some interesting information today, the kind of information that you may be able to use to make yourself look good. But you must not use it to make someone else look bad — that's not nice.

Aquarius
Jan. 21 - Feb. 19
You have nothing to prove. No, really, nothing at all. Both at home and at work, the people who count know what you can do and know that you will never let them down. That's not the Aquarian way.

Pisces
Feb. 20 - March 20
Use your good-natured charm to convince a friend or colleague that they really should change their ways for the better. You don't have to come over all moralistic about it but you do need to highlight their errors. **SALLY BROMPTON**

Start With a Motoring Group

BY MICHAEL WIESENBERG



Across
1. Canadian map dispensers: initialism
4. ___ la la
7. Pit at a rock concert
11. A/C capacity measures
13. Like most colleges
14. Christmas visitor
15. Pepsi or Coke
16. Scots Gaelic
17. Fields of learning
18. Alberta's second-largest city
20. Clenched hand
21. Chose to join, with "in"
22. Bring home after expenses
23. Middle Eastern market
26. Harper group
29. Pub favorite
30. PM Pearson
33. Cat's call
35. Bums
37. Fib
38. Earth or land: Fr.
39. Breaking waves
40. Northern Canada land feature
42. "A girl" or "a boy" preceder
43. More moronic
45. ___ *Goes to Camp:* 1987 Jim Varney comedy
47. Gay Nineties or Roaring Twenties
48. Mr. ____: nearsighted cartoon character with Jim Backus's voice
50. Baseball team
52. Ontario neighbour
55. Lack of fighting
56. One of many on a computer desktop
57. William Lyon Mackenzie ___: 10th PM
59. Eggs on
60. "Told you I could do it!"
61. "Fifth Avenue" store
62. Audience's expressions of disapproval
63. Foot digit
64. Occupied a chair

Down
1. *This Hour Has 22 Minutes* network
2. Dip ___ in the water: test bath temperature (2 wds.)
3. "We'll take a cup of kindness yet for ___ lang syne"
4. Cake often made with ground nuts
5. Do a lawn job
6. Mideast Gulf
7. ___ Provinces: they're on the Atlantic
8. Individual units
9. Baseball figure, for short
10. Owns
12. American ___: Pacific Ocean territory
13. Midpoint
14. Toronto-born *60 Minutes* regular Morley
19. October birthstones
22. And not
23. Comments often uttered by Ebenezer Scrooge
24. Audible
25. Striped equine
26. Started a golf hole, with "off"
27. Like many a Stephen King novel
28. Alphabetizes, for example
31. Aspersion
32. *Cat on a Hot ___ Roof*
34. AB's and BC's place in Canada, directionally
36. Transgressions
38. Fortune teller's 22-card deck
40. Black or green drink
41. Provincial capital whose name means "queen"
44. Forest constituents
46. Breakfast spots
48. Chinese gambling mecca west of Hong Kong
49. Negative end of a battery
50. Rome's fiddling emperor
51. Othello's betrayer
52. Catcher's glove
53. Slant
54. Ottawa-born singer of Lonely Boy
55. Tavern
58. Canada's national levy, for short

Yesterday's Crossword

What's online

See today's answers at metronews.ca/answers.

Sudoku

How to play
Fill in the grid, so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1-9. There is no math involved. You solve the puzzle with reasoning and logic.

		7				3	2	
6	8						4	
			9		5	1		
		8			1	9		5
			4		3			
3		6	8			4		
		2	6		7			
	1						9	4
	6	5				7		

Yesterday's Sudoku

Weather

TODAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
MAX: 10° MIN: 9°	MAX: 10° MIN: 4°	MAX: 14° MIN: 6°

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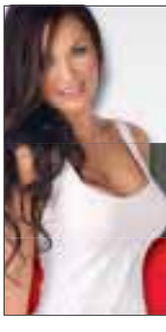
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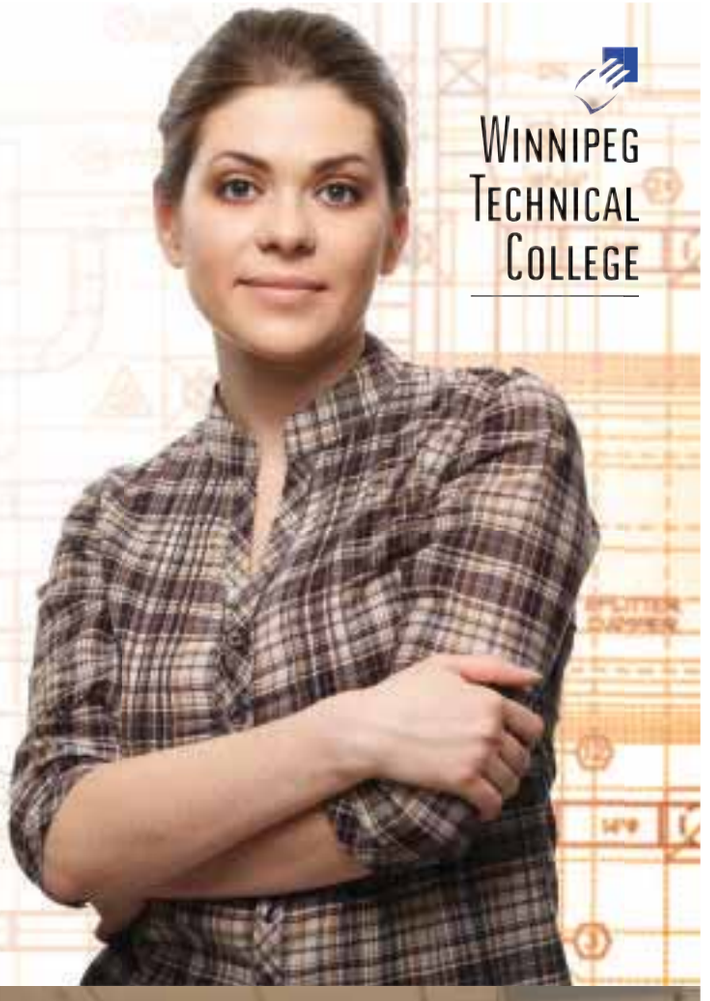

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